REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 8-18 are presented for further examination. Claims 1, 8, and 13 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

In the Office Action mailed May 1, 2008, the Examiner rejected claims 1- 4 and 8-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Schafer WO 97/09179 in view of the Admitted Prior Art (APA) and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0132871 ("Colton").

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the basis for the rejection and requests reconsideration and further examination of the claims.

Claim 1 is directed to a process for the manufacture of a ruler for use in accurate measuring of fabric for quilting, patchwork and other crafts. The process is recited as including the steps of forming a ruler blank from a single layer of a substantially transparent material and printing a pattern onto a surface of the blank consisting of a single or multicolor pattern with scalar markings on the ruler. Claim 1 further recites printing a non-slip pattern in a single step using a composition that includes an ultraviolet-light dryable ink with an adhesive and a granular filler to impart non-slip properties onto the same surface of the ruler without impeding viewing of the item measured and the scalar markings through the ruler. Claim 1 in addition recites the nonslip pattern dried by passing the ruler through a UV dryer at a temperature not to exceed 40°C and for a period of within 30 seconds.

None of the references cited and applied by the Examiner teach the printing of a non-slip pattern in a single step using UV curing. Rather, applicant's admitted prior art describes the use of a varnish with a finely ground sand or pumice that is dissolved in solvent and printed onto "an area" on a quilting ruler to impart non-slip characteristics. Neither Schafer, APA, nor Colton teach or suggest printing in a single step a non-slip pattern apart from the scalar pattern much less using an ultraviolet-light dryable ink for the non-slip pattern.

Colton describes a two step process of first applying a UV coating and then applying a non-slip material. The non-slip material is broadcast (scattered) randomly in non-measured amounts over the UV coating. This process undermines the quality and continuity of the grip. Some areas may have more non-slip build up than others, and there may be no grip in contact with the coating at all. If this process was used on the claimed rulers there could be more grip deposited on one area creating too much friction with the (fabric) beneath, thus reducing its

sliding ability which is extremely important on a quilting ruler. The user does not want to be lifting the ruler each time to move it. The present claimed process and rule enables the rulers to be moved easily and then when slight pressure is applied makes them non-slip whilst in use.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is clearly allowable over the combination of references cited and applied by the Examiner.

Dependent claims 2-4 are allowable for the features recited therein as well as for the reasons why claim 1 is allowable.

Independent claim 8 is directed to a ruler for use in the accurate measuring of fabric for quilting, patchwork, and other crafts that includes a ruler blank formed from a single layer of substantially transparent material, a pattern of scalar markings including at least one color printed onto a surface of the ruler, and a non-slip, snag resistant pattern that is comprised of an ultra-violet-light dried ink, an adhesive, and a granular filler printed in a single step on the same surface of the ruler as the pattern of the scalar markings, with the pattern applied in a manner to prevent impeding viewing of the measured item and the scalar markings.

As discussed above, Colton describes a two step process of first applying a UV coating and then applying a non-slip material that is broadcast randomly in non-measured amounts over the UV coating, thus undermining the quality and continuity of the grip. Applicant's admitted prior art does not describe or suggest the use of UV material printed in a pattern in a single step to form a non-slip pattern on the working surface of the ruler. While Schafer may suggest the use of UV inks for printing the scalar markings, there is no teaching or suggestion that such inks can be used to print non-slip, non-snag patterns in a single step on a ruler separate and apart from the scalar markings.

Even if one were motivated to combine the references as the Examiner suggests, it would result in the use of UV curable coating materials having non-slip materials scattered randonmly throughout, making for an uneven surface with unpredictably non-slip characteristics.

Thus, if one were motivated to combine the references as suggested by the Examiner, it would require the random broadcasting of non-slip material throughout the pattern, which is not applicant's claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that claim 8 and dependent claims 9-12 are clearly allowable over the references cited and applied by the Examiner.

Claims 13-18 are directed to a method of making a ruler in one or more discrete stages that includes the distinguishing features recited in independent claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 13 and dependent claims 14-18 are allowable for the reasons discussed above with respect to claims 1-4.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in this application are now in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner finds minor informalities that can be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is urged to contact applicant's undersigned representative by telephone at (206) 622-4900 in order to expeditiously resolve prosecution of this application. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing this case to issuance is respectfully solicited.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,

SEED Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC

/E. Russell Tarleton/

E. Russell Tarleton
Registration No. 31,800

ERT:alb
701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 5400
Seattle, Washington 98104
Phone: (206) 622-4900
Fax: (206) 682-6031

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